

## Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 MC-02 OMB-01 AID-05

EA-10 SCA-01 /117 W

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P R 141341Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6302

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2232

DEPT PLS PASS AMB KEATING

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, EG, SY, US

SUBJ: PERES ON US-ISRAELI RELATIONS AND

ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE

1. SUMMARY: DEFENSE MINISTER SHIMON PERES, IN LENGTHY RADIO INTERVIEW APRIL 12 ON EVE OF ISRAEL'S 27TH INDEPENDENCE DAY ANNIVERSARY, ASSESSED CURRENT STATE OF ISRAELI-US RELATIONS AS "PASSING CRISIS", RELATED SOUTHEAST ASIAN EVENTS TO MIDDLE EAST, URGED NEED FOR GREATER SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN ISRAELI ARMS PRODUCTION, AND ANALYZED FACTORS IN EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN POLICY BLOCKING PROGRESS TOWARD RESOLUTION OF ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS BASED ON OFFICIAL GOI TEXT FROM DEFENSE MINISTER PERES WEEKEND INTERVIEW.

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3. ISRAEL/US RELATIONS. ANSWERING QUESTION RE

" SHORT CIRCUIT" IN BILATERAL RELATIONS, PERES SAID,

QUOTE I SEE THIS AS A TIME OF DEBATE. EVEN A SIS-THERE IS NO POINT

DENYING THIS.IN SPITE OF

THIS, I AM CONVINCED THAT THIS IS A PASSING CRISIS. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT DIFFERENCES OF OPINION HAVE APPEARED IN THE FRIENDSHIP OF LONG STANDING, AND THE DEEP-ROOTED UNDERSTANDING THAT EXIST BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE US...THERE IS A CERTAIN LOGIC INHERENT IN THIS FABRIC OF RELATIOS WHICH, I AM CONVINCED, WILL PROVE STRONGER THAN ANY SHORTCOMING OR PASSING DISPUTE... I BELIEVE THIS IS A DISCUSSION IN WHICH WE CAN HOLD OUR OWN. END QUOTE.

4. IMPACT OF SOUTHEAST ASIA ON MIDDLE EAST. QUOTE: THE TRAGEDY OF CAMBODIA IS CAMBODIA ITSELF, AND THE TRAGEDY OF VIETNAM IS VIETNAM ITSELF. ISRAEL'S STRENGTH LIES, FIRST AND FOREMOST, IN ISRAEL ITSELF. EXTERNAL AID IS IMPORTANT, BUT IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR ISRAEL'S OWN STRENGTH. END QUOTE.

5. ARMS PRODUCTION. ANSWERING QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBLE GOI RESPONSE TO REDUCTION ("DROUGHT") IN FLOW OF US ARMS SUPPLIES, PERES CHARACTERIZED THIS AS " REMOTE POSSIBILITY". LATER ON IN INTERVIEW, RETURNING TO THEME OF SELF-RELIANCE AND IMPOSSIBILITY OF COUNTING ON ANY OTHERSTATE OR SUPERPOWER TO PRESERVE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY, HE ADDED, QUOTE: ONE OF THE FAR-REACHING CONCLUSIONS FROM THE SITUATION IS THAT IT IS VITAL TO LESSEN ISRAEL'S DEPENDENCE, IN ALL SENSES...TODAY, WE ARE MANUFACTURING 30 PERCENT OF THE ARMS, PERHPAS WE COULD REACH 40 PERCENT OR 50 PERCENT. THAT IS A VERY IMPORTANTMATTER. END QUOTE.

6. EGYPTIAN OBJECTIVES. PERES CHARACTERIZED SADAT'S RCENT STATMENTS RE OPENING OF SUEZ CANAL, RESPONSIVENESS TO RED CROSS INITIATIVE RE REFRAINING FROM USE OF MISSILES ON CIVILAIN CENTER AND RETURN OF BODIES AS " PERFECT AND CALCULATD MODERATION, THOUGH BASICALLY ...A VERBAL MODERATION ONLY." HE SAID THAT SADAT IS CAUGHT BETWEEN THREE CONFLICTING OBJECTIVES:A) TO DRIVE UNCLASSIFIED

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WEDGE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND U.S; B) TO PRESERVE EGYPTAIN HEGEMONY IN ARAB WORLD AND: :) TO ADDRESS EGYPT'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS.

7. SYRIA: AFTER NOTING POSSIBILITY THAT SYRAI AND JORDAN MAY BE MOVING TO CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH POTENTIAL MILITARY IMPLICATION FOR ISRAEL, PERES INDICATED THAT SYRIAN TACTICS REMAIN UNCLEAR: QUOTE: IN SPITE OF SYRIA'S BIG APPETITE AND HER ARMAMENTS, THERE SEEMS TO BE A FEELING IN DAMASCUS THAT IT IS NOT SO EASY TO COMPETE WITH THE I.D.F. BUT I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED BY ANY SYRIAN MOVE. END QUOTE.

8. UNCERTAIN FUTURE. PERES CONCLUDED INTERVIEW ON  
PESSIMISTIC, PHILOSOPHICAL NOTE, ANTICIPATING THAT  
RESOLUTION OF DISPUTE WILL HINGE NOT ON RESOLUTION  
OF OUTSTANDING TERRITORIAL QUESTIONS BUT ON CHANGE OF  
ATTITUDE IN EGYPT AND ELSEWHERE TOWARD ISRAEL. QUOTE:  
WHAT WILL BE? WE SHALL HOLD OUT IN THE FACE OF ARAB  
HOSTILITY, UNTIL THE ARAB WORLD FINALLY COMES TO TERMS  
WITH ITSELF. THE QUESTION IS NOT WHETHER ISRAEL WILL  
WITHDRAW FROM EGYPTIAN TERRITORY - THE QUESTION IS  
WHETHER EGYPT WILL EMERGE FROM ITS OWN SELF-IMPOSED  
SLAVERY INTO SELF-REDEMPTION. THIS IS NOT A MATTER OF  
EGYPT'S TERRITORIAL DISPOSITION, BUT OF HER MENTALITY.  
THIS WILL COME ABOUT--I DON'T KNOW WHEN. IT MAY TAKE A  
DECADE, EIGHT OR PERHAPS FIFTEEN YEARS--I CAN'T SAY.  
UNTIL THEN WE MUST WALK IN THE SHADOW OF THIS HOSTILITY,  
RESPONSIBILITY AND ALSO PROUDLY. AND WE SHALL EMERGE FROM  
IT. END QUOTE.  
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## Message Attributes

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BEIRUT  
CAIRO  
DAMASCUS  
JERUSALEM  
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